

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7591

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT - USG STIPULATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 7480

1. SUMMARY. MFA MINISTATE AGHA SHAHI CALLED ME IN THIS AFTERNOON (1) TO ASK FOR BACKGROUND ON DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ABOUT SUSPENSION OF NEW US AID TO PAKISTAN (CARRIED HERE IN PAPERS THIS MORNING ATTRIBUTED TO REUTERS) AND (2) TO CLARIFY APPARENT CONFUSION OVER USG HOPE TO HAVE PRIVATE ASSURANCE FROM GOP THAT THEY WILL NOT BUILD THEIR OWN REPROCESSING PLANT -- AN ASSURANCE THAT AGHA SHAHI SAID NO GOVT HERE COULD GIVE AND STILL SURVIVE IN FACE OF PAK PUBLIC OPINION. END SUMMARY

2. CONCERNING REUTERS STORY I SAID I HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM WASH BECAUSE TODAY IS HOLIDAY AND CODE ROOM CLOSED. I WAS SURE THAT USG HAD NO DESIRE TO STIMULATE ANY PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME CONCERNING REPROCESSING PLANT AND GLENN AMENDMENT. I SURMISED THAT NEWSMEN, IN FOLLOWING UP RECENT STORIES CONCERNING FRENCH CONTRACT, HAD ASKED DIRECT QUESTION TO WHICH DEPT SPOKESMAN HAD REPLIED ALONG FACTUAL LINES. I OBSERVED
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THAT SIMILAR STORIES HAD FROM TIME TO TIME APPEARED IN PAK PRESS DURING LAST SIX MONTHS, AND THAT DEPT SPOKESMAN HAD NOT SAID ANYTHING THAT IS NOT ALREADY KNOWN. I SAID I WOULD INFORM GOP AS SOON AS I HAD ANY WORD FROM WASH ABOUT BACKGROUND OF SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT AND TEXT USED.

3. SHAHI THEN RAISED QUESTION OF USG NEEDS OR HOPES FOR AS-

SURANCES FROM GOP ABOUT REPROCESSING, IN EVENT FRENCH PLANT IS CANCELLED. PAK AMB TO WASH YAQUB-KHAN WAS PRESENT AND EMPHASIZED THAT UNDERSECY NEWSOM HAD NOT MADE ANY STIPULATION IN HIS CONVERSATION A FEW DAYS AGO THAT A PRIVATE ASSURANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM GOP THAT PAKS WOULD NOT BUILD THEIR OWN REPROCESSING PLANT. YAQUB-KHAN SAID NEWSOM HAD STATED THAT NO PUBLIC STATEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND HAD ADDED THAT USG IN CONSULTING CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO GIVE USG'S ASSESSMENT OF PAK INTENTIONS, AND IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR NEWSOM TO SAY AT THIS POINT WHAT USG ASSESSMENT WOULD BE. FONSEC SHAHNAWAZ THEN READ TEXT OF MY ORAL DEMARCHE OF 20 JULY (ISLAMABAD 7082) INCLUDING MY STATEMENT "WE HOPE YOU CAN ASSURE USG PRIVATELY..."

4. SHAHI STATED FLATLY AND REPEATEDLY THAT NO GOVT OF PAKISTAN COULD GIVE EVEN A PRIVATE ASSURANCE NOT TO ENGAGE IN REPROCESSING AND STILL SURVIVE IN FACE OF PUBLIC OPINION. HE CHARACTERIZED USG REQUEST FOR PRIVATE ASSURANCE AS IMPINGING ON SOVEREIGNTY OF PAKISTAN. HE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF USG INTENTIONS IN THIS MATTER, SPECIFICALLY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF, AS IS THE CASE, GOP COULD NOT GIVE EVEN PRIVATE ASSURANCE.

5. I TOOK ISSUE WITH NOTION OF IMPINGEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY, BUT I SAID I WOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM WASH.

6. SHAHI TENTATIVELY PLANS TO LEAVE TOMORROW FOR NEW YORK.
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